

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 20 have been cancelled. Claims 82 through 107 have been added. Claims 82 through 107 are thus pending in the application. The claim amendments presented above are being submitted by Applicants for the purpose of more particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming that which Applicants believe to be an invention disclosed in the originally filed specification.

Applicants' attorney acknowledges the Requirement to Restrict mailed April 14, 2004. The Requirement is somewhat inappropriate as Applicants in Paragraph 8 of the cover sheet dated August 1, 2003, requested that claims 21 through 81 be cancelled in order to reduce the filing fee. Applicants' attorney believes this request was properly acted upon by the Patent Office. Hence only claims 1 through 20 were originally filed.

The August 1, 2003 cover sheet also notes an intention to submit a Preliminary Amendment which is submitted herewith.

- This Preliminary Amendment seeks the cancellation of claims 1 through 20 and the addition of new claims 82 through 107.

These newly added claims are directed to an adaptive drive system having first and second drivelines, a clutch operably disposed therebetween, a throttle position sensor and a controller which provides certain operational features such as step wise activation and deactivation of the clutch while (so long as) a predetermined speed difference exists between the two sensed drivelines' speeds and various operational aspects of providing a minimum or baseline clutch current.

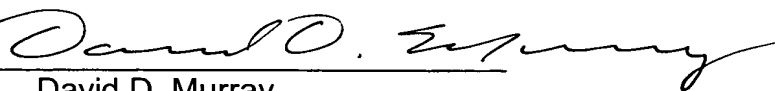
Claim 82 through 107 are unified in their scope and consistent with regard to claimed subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that a Requirement to Restrict is

unnecessary, the previous Requirement to Restrict is rendered moot and the claims submitted herein are in condition for examination.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed with this divisional application on August 1, 2003. Examination is therefore requested

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 14, 2004

By: 
David D. Murray
Registration No. 28,647
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
Telephone: (734) 302-6000